HIS MAIESTIES

LETTER AND DECLARATION TO THE SHERIFS and CITY of LONDON.

Ianuary 17, 1642.

Printed by His MAIETIES Command,
At OXFORD, January 18.

By *Leonard Lichfield*, Printer to the Univerty, 1642.

OXFORD

HIS MAJESTIES
Letter and Declaration to the Sheriffs and Citie of LONDON.

January 17. 1642.

TRusty and Welbeloved, Wee greet you well. Wee received lately a Petition from the Aldermen and Common-Councell of Our City of *London*, by the hands of Persons entrusted by them for the delivery, who found such a reception from Us, as well manifested Our regard to that body, which sent them; Though wewell knew by whom that Petition was framed, and where perused and examined, before it was approved by those from whom it seemed to be sent, yet wee were so willing to enter into a correspondence with that Our City, and to receive any addresse and application from them, according to that Invitation wee had given by Our late Proclamation; And were so glad to finde that there was yet some hopes they would looke to the Peace and happinesse of that City, and at last sever themselves from any Faction or dependence, which might insensibly in-

volve them in those Calamities they did not foresee, that wee returned such a gracious Answer thereunto, so full of Candor and Affection, that the meanest Inhabitant of that Our City, if hee carefully consider the same, will finde himselfe concerned in it, and that wee have had an especiall care of his particular. VVith this Answer of Ours wee sent a servant of Our owne, in the company of those who had been so well used here, to require and see that it might be communicated to the whole body of that Our City; not doubting but that both it and the Bringer should receive such Entertainment there, as might manifest their due regard of Us, and of Our Affection to them: But to Our great wonder, we finde that after ten dayes Attendance, and suffering ridiculous Pamphlets to be published in Our Name, as if wee retracted Our former Resolutions, (which Pamphlet wee have caused to be burned by the hand of the Hangman, as wee also require you to see done) instead of that admission wee expected to Our Messenger and Message, Guards of Armed Men have beene brought to keepe Our good Subjects, to whom that Our Answer was directed, from being present at the reading thereof; and Speeches have been made by Strangers (who have beene admitted to the Citie Councels, contrary to the Freedome and Custome of those meetings,) to blast Our said Answer, and to Dishonour and Slander Us, which if Our good Subjects there shall suffer, wee shall be much discouraged in Our desired correspondence with that Our City, and so by the cunning and power of those Incendiaries mentioned in Our Answer (Alderman *Pennington*) who to show his great Loyalty to Vs, and his fitnesse to

be

be the chief Magiſtrate of ſuch a City, being informed that a deſperate perſon there, ſaid, that *hee hoped ſhortly to waſh his hands in Our Blood*, refuſed to ſend any Warrant, or to give any direction to any Officer for his Apprehenſion,) *Ven*, *Fulke*, and *Manwaring*) who have plunged that Our City into ſuch unſpeakable Calamities, in which they would ſtill keep it to cure their owne deſperate condition, Our good Subjects there are not ſuffered to receive Our gracious Anſwer to that Petition; We have therefore thought fit to write theſe Our Letters to you, requiring you the Sheriffes of Our ſaid City, to take care for the publiſhing that Our Anſwer (which We herewith ſend you) to Our good Subjects of that Our City; And Our pleaſure is, That you the Maſters and Wardens of the ſeverall Companies of Our ſaid City forthwith ſummon all the Members of your ſeverall Companies, with all the Freemen and Apprentiſes (whoſe hopes and intereſts are ſo much blaſted in theſe generall Diſtractions) belonging thereunto, to appeare at your ſeverall Halls, where you ſhall cauſe Our ſaid Anſwer, together with theſe Our Letters, to be publiquely read, that all Our good Subjects may cleerely underſtand how farre we have been from begetting, how farre We are from continuing or nouriſhing theſe unnaturall civill diſſentions, and how much it is in their owne power to remove the preſent preſſures, and to eſtabliſh the future happineſſe and glory of that famous City, and may ſeriouſly weigh every part of that Our Anſwer, as well that which carries caution in it for the future, as pardon for what is paſt, for aſſure your ſelves, for the time to come, We ſhall proceed with all ſeverity againſt ſuch who ſhall incurre the penalty of the Law in thoſe poynts, of which we have given them ſo faire a warning in Our ſaid An-

ſwer, and whoſoever ſhall not behave himſelfe like a good Subject in this Our Kingdome, ſhall not (if We can helpe it) receive the benefit and advantage of being Our Subject in any other; but all Forraigne Princes ſhall know, that as ſuch Perſon hath parted with his Loyalty to Us, ſo he muſt not hope for any ſecurity by Us, and to that purpoſe We ſhall henceforward have a very inquiſitive Eye upon the Actions of all Our Subjects, that ſome example may be made, how eaſie it is for Us to puniſh their diſloyalties abroad, who for a time may avoyd Our Juſtice at home. And to the end that none of Our good Subjects of that Our Citie may thinke themſelves bound to obey any of the Orders or Commands of the pretended Lord Major (whom We have and doe ſtill accuſe of high Treaſon, & conſpiring to take Our life from Us,) It is well knowne to thoſe Citizens who underſtand the Charter of that City (ſo amply granted by Our Royall Progenitors, and ſo gratiouſly confirmed by Vs, and of which We preſume Our good Subjects there doe ſtill deſire to receive the benefit,) that the ſaid *Iſaack Pennington* was never regularly elected, or lawfully admitted to bee Lord Major of that Our Citie, that in truth Alderman *Cordwell*, was by the plurality of voyces choſen, and that this Man was never preſented to, or admitted by Vs, in ſuch manner as is preſcribed by their ſaid Charter, neither had that Judge, who preſumed to ſweare him, any more colour of Law or Authoritie to adminiſter ſuch an Oath to him, then he hath to doe the ſame to morrow to any other Alderman of the Citie: And We doe therefore hereby Declare the ſaid *Iſaack Pennington* not to be Major of that Our Citie of *London*, and to have no lawfull Authoritie to exerciſe the ſame, and that Our good Subjects of that Our Citie, ought not to ſubmit to any Orders,

ders, directions, or commands which ſhall iſſue from him as Lord Major of that Our City, but that the ſame are void and of none effect. And wee doe once more require you the Sheriffs of Our ſaid City, and all oth r the Magiſtrates of the ſame, in which all Our good Subjects of that City will aſsiſt you, that you cauſe the ſaid *Iſaack Pennington*, *Ven*, *Fulk*, and *Manwaring*, to be apprehended and committed to ſafe Cuſtody, that wee may proceed againſt them as guilty of high Treaſon, and principall Authours of thoſe Calamities which are now ſo heavy upon Our poore Subjects of that City, and if not ſuddenly remedied, will in a ſhort time utterly confound a Place, and a People lately of ſo flouriſhing an eſtimation in all the parts of Chriſtendome. And whereas wee are informed that one *Browne* a Wood-monger, *Titchborne*, a Linnen-Draper, and one *Harvy* a Silkman, have exerciſed great Inſolencies and outrages in that Our Citie, and when many of Our good Subjects there, have aſſembled together in a peaceable and modeſt manner, to conſult about the Peace and welfare of that Citie, the ſaid mutinous and ſeditious Perſons have preſumed to lead multitudes of armed Men againſt them, and by ſuch force have beaten, wounded, and killed Our good Subjects; Our Will and Pleaſure is, that if the ſaid *Browne*, *Titchborne*, and *Harvy*, or either of them, ſhall ſo farre neglect Our gracious offer of Pardon, as ſtill to engage themſelves in thoſe unwarrantable and ſeditious courſes, That you Our Sheriffes of *London*, raiſe power to ſuppreſſe the ſaid force, and that you and all Our Miniſters of Juſtice, uſe your utmoſt meanes to apprehend the ſaid Perſons, and to bring them to condigne puniſhment. And We doe hereby Declare, That it ſhall be lawfull for any of Our loving Subjects, to reſiſt and oppoſe the ſaid Perſons,

Perſons, if they ſhall hereafter, in ſuch a Warlike manner, endeavour to moleſt them as they would doe Rebells and Traitours: And We hope that all Our good Subjects of that Our much injured City of *London*, doe take notice of Our Grace and Favour towards them in Our ſo freely paſſing by and pardoning the Offences there committed againſt Vs, as We have offered by Our Proclamation and Our late Anſwer; and of Our very earneſt deſire to be with them, and to reſide amongſt them for their Comfort, Support, and Protection, if they ſhall, by firſt providing for their owne ſecurity (in ſuch manner as We have directed them in Our late Anſwer) give Vs an inſtance that We may be ſafe there too; And that they doe likewiſe obſerve, that being by ſuch violence kept from them, We have done Our utmoſt endeavour to continue and advance the decayed traiding of that Our City, by permitting and encouraging all reſort and traffique thither, and therefore if by the ſtopping of Carriages, and ſeizing Commodities by other men, the commerce and correſpondence be broken betweene that place and Our good Subjects of other Counties, they will impute that miſchiefe to the true Authors of it, and looke upon Vs only as not able to helpe them. Doe but your Duties, and this Cloud, which threatens a preſent confuſion, will quickly vaniſh away, and you will enjoy all the Bleſſings of a happy Nation, to the which no endeavour of Ours ſhall be wanting.

Given at Our Court at Oxford, *this* 17 *day of* January 1642.

FINIS.